



US Army Corps of
Engineers ®



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Caspian Tern Management in the Columbia River Estuary

Planning Update - January 2005

The Final EIS is complete!

We are pleased to announce the release of the Final EIS for Caspian Tern Management to Reduce Predation of Juvenile Salmonids in the Columbia River Estuary. The EIS is available for review at the following libraries:

- ▶ WA: North Olympic Library System, Port Angeles and Sequim Branches;
- ▶ OR: Astoria Public Library; Multnomah County Central Library, Portland; Eugene Public Library; and Lake County Library, Lakeview;
- ▶ CA: Oakland Main Public Library; and San Francisco Public Library

You can also view or download the EIS at the following websites:

- ▶ <http://migratorybirds.pacific.fws.gov/CATE.htm>
- ▶ <http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/pm/e/>
- ▶ <http://nwr.noaa.gov>

For more information or an electronic CD of the Final EIS, please contact Nanette Seto at 503-231-6164, cateeis@fws.gov, or at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Migratory Birds and Habitat Programs, 911 NE 11th Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-4181.



Aerial photo of East Sand Island, located in the Columbia River Estuary

The Final Environmental Impact Statement is Complete!

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), and NOAA Fisheries have been working cooperatively since 2003 on the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Caspian Tern Management to Reduce Predation of Juvenile Salmonids in the Columbia River Estuary. A Draft EIS was released in July 2004 for a 60-day public review period. The three agencies have responded to public comments and revised the Draft EIS. The Final EIS is now completed and available. The Preferred Alternative identified in the Final EIS proposes to redistribute a portion of the Caspian tern colony currently nesting on East Sand Island in the Columbia River estuary by managing other sites in Washington, Oregon, and California. Implementing the EIS would result in the reduction of tern consumption of juvenile threatened and endangered Columbia River salmonids, assisting in overall salmon recovery in the Columbia River Basin. An additional benefit would also occur by redistributing the Pacific Coast/Western regional tern population throughout the region, rather than having a concentration of approximately 70 percent in one location, vulnerable to stochastic events.



Visit our website: <http://migratorybirds.pacific.fws.gov/CATE.htm>



Public Comment Summary

We received 37 comments (by letter, fax, postcard, or email) on the Draft EIS. The comments ranged from detailed scientific comments, to expressions of opinion on various issues, to comments that were simply votes on different alternatives. Comments were received on a wide range of issues. This range is best categorized into six main issues: (1) Need for action; (2) NOAA Fisheries tern predation analysis; (3) Management alternatives; (4) Alternative sites; (5) Effects to terns; and (6) East Sand Island ownership. Appendix J in the Final EIS contains a complete summary and responses to all comment letters.



On-Line Planning Information

Background materials, electronic copies of technical reports and planning updates can be found on our website: <http://migratorybirds.pacific.fws.gov/CATE.htm>.

Caspian Tern Management EIS
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Migratory Birds and Habitat Programs
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232-4181

How did the Draft EIS change?

All comments received on the Draft EIS were carefully considered in revising the EIS. Based on the content and range of the comments received, changes made to the text of the Final EIS were relatively minor and primarily served to correct, support, or clarify the analysis and recommendations made. The actions proposed in the Preferred Alternative (Alternative C) presented in the Final EIS remain consistent with those presented in the Draft EIS. See inset box to the right for a summary of the Preferred Alternative.

What's Next?

A decision on the EIS will be made by the Service and Corps no sooner than 30 days after the notice of availability of the Final EIS is published in the Federal Register. The decision will be documented in a Record of Decision. A notification announcing the publication and release of the Record of Decision will be distributed at that time.

The following is a summary of the Preferred Alternative:

- ▶ Enhance/create tern nesting habitat at alternate sites: Dungeness NWR, WA; Fern Ridge, Summer, and Crump lakes, OR; and 3 sites in San Francisco Bay, CA
- ▶ Phased in reduction of tern nesting area on East Sand Island to 1 to 1.5 acres (based on enhancement/creation of habitat at alternate sites, see above), accommodating about 2,500 to 3,125 pairs
- ▶ Monitor tern colony sizes and possibly diet (dependant on colony size) at managed alternate sites
- ▶ Long-term monitoring of regional tern population



Don't forget to
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